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EASTERN

**F.O.
371**

1947

PALESTINE

File No. 84

pp. 6093 - 7030

**CLOSED
UNTIL
1978**

61846

1	2	3	4	5	6
		1		2	

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Reference
FO 371 / 61846

249

E

E 6093

2

1947

PALESTINE

10 JUL

Registry Number E6093/84/31

FROM Chancery,

No. Lisbon 183/43/47

Dated 30 June
Received in Registry 11 July

Illegal Immigrant Ships

Refers to Madrid Chancery letter no. 275/28/47 of 17th June (E5584/84/31).

Have no information about Jewish Committee fitting out illegal immigrant vessel here.

Last Paper.

6089

(Minutes.)

Handwritten notes and signatures

References.

15/7

Now see E 6290

Handwritten signature and date 18/7

(Print.)

61846

(How disposed of.)

8/ Schers
M.15.
17 July

(Action completed.)

Handwritten signature

(Index)

Handwritten signature

Next Paper.

E6154

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2
3
4
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PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Group *F0*

Class *371*

Piece *61846*

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E6154/84/31

1	2	3	4	5	6
		1		2	

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References
FO 371 / 61846

1947

E

E 6199

4

PALESTINE

14 JUL

Registry Number } E6199/84/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No. Consul General.

Dated Scharvilles

Received in Registry } 98

11 July
14

Illegal Immigrant Ships.
Port Police state that ships Bruna and Luciano are likely to sail tomorrow in ballast. They add that the captains of these vessels have been asking for charts of the coast line between Genoa and Leghorn and are specially interested in locating large white boats in area. Luciano has since left for Beirut, and Bruna for Istanbul.

Last Paper.

615-4

(Minutes.)

[Signature]
14/7

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

[Signature]

(Index.)

[Signature]

Next Paper.

E 6242

32003 F.O.P.

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

Reference

FO 371 / 61846

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CONSTANT & CONSTANT.

SOLICITORS.

HARVEY L. CONSTANT. R. A. PARKIN.

TELEGRAMS: TWOCONSTS, STOCK, LONDON.

TELEPHONES: AVENUE 1191.

(PRIVATE BRANCH EXCHANGE)

BALTIC EXCHANGE CHAMBERS.

24, ST. MARY AXE.

LONDON, E.C.3.

AB/KB.

14th July, 1947.

Sir,

Re:- "K O R A"

We quote as follows translation of cable dated 6th instant, which we read to you over the telephone last week.

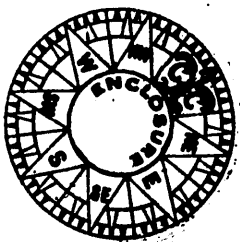
"KORA SUSPICIONS AUTHORITIES UNJUSTIFIED
STOP REPAIRS WILL BE COMPLETED 15 INST STOP ONLY
ACTION FOR FREIGHT TO THE PENINSULAR MEDITERRANEAN
COMMITTEE BY LETTER 28 MAY STOP FOLLOWING SEIZURE
HAVE SUSPENDED NEGOTIATIONS STOP PLEASE PAY A/C
VACUUM STOP CABLE".

We have written to our Clients this morning and have suggested that they should send a cable in reply on the lines of the enclosed copy.

We have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servants,

The Under Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
Eastern Division,
Whitehall,
S. W. 1.



E 6288

16 JUL 1947

61

1	2	3	4	5	6

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E6290/84/31
E6330

1	2	3	4	5	6

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FO 371 / 61846

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257

E

E 6330

9

PALESTINE

17 JUL 1947

Registry Number

E 6330/84/31

FROM

Constant and

No.

Constant

Dated

AB/58

Received in Registry

4 11/60
14 July
17

SS KORA

minutes of (the) Constant and
Constant from 1 Mill re SS KORA
the enclosed copy of their reply dated
14 July.

Last Paper.

6330.

(Minutes.)

References.

167

G.P.P. Constant and Constant 11/7.
copy H.I.S (Mr. Seben) ~~17/7~~

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

of Seben M.I.C.
(with in pp.)
✓ July 23

of Seben (Constant re Constant 15/5)

(Action completed.)

17/7

(Index)

~~17/7~~
17/7

Next Paper.

E 6456

1
2
3
4
5
6

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CONSTANT & CONSTANT.

SOLICITORS.

HARVEY L. CONSTANT. R. A. PARKIN.

TELEGRAMS: TWOCONSTS, STOCK, LONDON.

TELEPHONES: AVENUE 1191.

(PRIVATE BRANCH EXCHANGE)

BALTIC EXCHANGE CHAMBERS. 10

24, ST. MARY AXE,

LONDON, E.C.3.

AB/CB.

14th July, 1947.

Sir,

For attention of Mr. Cable.

s.s. "Kora"

In order to keep you advised in this matter,
we are sending you herewith copy of the letter we have
received from Mr. David S. Neill, and copy of our reply.

We beg to remain,

Sir,

Your obedient Servants,

[Handwritten signature]

The Under-Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
Eastern Division,
Whitehall,
S.W.1.

E : 6339

17 JUL



1	2	3	4	5	6
		1		2	

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FO 371 / 61846

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259

1947

E

14

6479

PALESTINE

21 JUL 1947

Registry Number } E 6479/84/31.

TELEGRAM FROM

No. Sir N. Charles, Rome.

Dated 15.7.47

Received in Registry } 16. July. 2

Last Paper.

E 6456

References.

(Print.)

* (How disposed of.)

Tel) Rome. 16.21.

25 July.

6). I.I.P on E 6793/84/31

2 Aug.

* J.I.P.

July 22.

(Action completed.)

J.C.M. 6/8

(Index)

[Handwritten initials]

Next Paper.

E 6504

Publicity for Jewish Illegal Immigration.

Ref Rome tel 1297 (E 5135/84/31).

Articles in Daily Mail, London Press Service provide excellent background for publicity for Jewish illegal immigrants. Still needs operational information about Zionist activities in Italy.

(Minutes.)

News Dept., for obs.

H. J. Bailey 21/7

If Sir Noel Charles is satisfied that the difficulties he mentions in para 4 of his telegram No. 1297 can be overcome, his proposal seems admirable and is entirely in accord with News Department's view that Italian news should come from Italy with a bona fide cable-line and not from London.

It is, of course, important - as Sir N. Charles realizes - that correspondents should in fact make an investigation for themselves and not rely too great an extent on material supplied by the Embassy. If this is done and the stories are good and the newspapers will print them, though News Department could certainly have a word with the London end of the chosen vessels if that was thought desirable.

To the three papers mentioned, I would add the "Daily Mail" and the "Daily Herald", both of which have given generous space to this question in the past, particularly the former with its "Ossema" articles. It would seem to be for decision in Rome how many of their correspondents should be put on the list.

32008 F.O.P.

Information

1/11.22/7 (R. B. Penrose)

1
2
3
4
5
6

Reference FO 371/61846

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Information Policy Dept.

15

I agree with News Department that this seems an admirable proposal. If the stories are good and it is clear at the London end that the correspondents have made an investigation themselves, they will be printed. Rome might be reminded of the special interest which the "Daily Mail" has shown - vide the Gehenna articles - also the "Daily Herald". If the "News Chronicle" will print the stories sent by their Rome correspondent they would provide a valuable corrective to the silly tone adopted in the leading articles on the subject of illegal immigration.

Even though appearing under an Italian dateline stories like this in the British Press would be useful for quotation in other countries and I imagine that B.I.S. could make good use of them.


H. B. BRENAN.

23rd July, 1947.

Telegram sent with c.o. concurrence
 25/7

See within:-

Palestine tel. 1391 of 23/7

Amended copy of above.
 5/8

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:

FO 371 / 61846

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6479

CYPHER/OTP

21 JUL 1947 DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2.

FROM ROME TO FOREIGN OFFICE

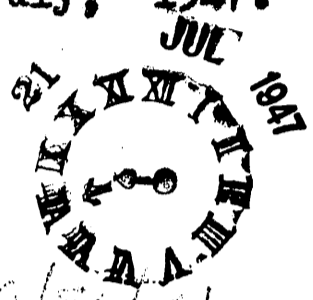
Sir N. Charles.
No. 1,525.

D: 3.18 p.m. 17th July, 1947.

16th July, 1947.

R: 7.10 p.m. 17th July, 1947.

Repeated to: Washington,
Paris,
Jerusalem.



000 000 000

US 130/150/01

My telegram No. 1,297 - publicity for Jewish Illegal Immigrants.

We have reviewed the question of publicity for Zionist activities in Italy in the light of London Press Service of July 9th and July 14th and series of Daily Mail articles referred to in your telegram No. 1,499.

2. These two together provide an excellent background for such publicity. But while [grp.undec.] press gives us the right line on broad political and human aspect of illegal immigration Daily Mail articles while detailed and factual, contain little direct reference to Italy. We are thus still faced locally with the difficulty of providing factual information for the press about Zionist activities in Italy without running into the risks mentioned in paragraph 4 of my telegram under reference. This is particularly important since there are now signs of surreptitious co-operation from both the Italian Government (c.f. my telegram No. 1,505) and the I.R.O. (c.f. my telegram No. 70 Saving).

3. I think that these difficulties could best be overcome by arranging for one or two selected correspondents of London daily newspapers who are new in Italy to be given a special assignment to investigate and write up illegal immigration here. We could give off-the-record briefing to such correspondents and guidance as to how and where to pursue their enquiries. My Information Secretary has one or two correspondents in mind who are well known to us and who would be suitable for this role. I have asked him to sound them out on their willingness to undertake it and will inform you of the likely candidates. If you agree to this scheme you might then consider persuading newspaper or newspapers concerned to give special prominence to "Jewish" features sent by such correspondents. To help in selecting correspondents we should like to know which of the big London newspapers would be most inclined to publish the material. We

/ourselves

1	
2	
3	
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Reference: FO 371 / 61846

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ourselves should suggest the Daily Telegraph, Daily Express and News Chronicle whose Rome correspondents have shown a good deal of interest in the subject in the past.

4. If we can proceed as proposed above this Embassy would confine itself to answering enquiries on general lines given in "Diplomatic programme".

5. Much evidence about illegal immigration from Italy is of course obtained by British authorities in Palestine from material taken from immigrants and interrogation reports. Copies of some of this evidence is sent to us from Jerusalem and is available to support official complaints to the Italian Government as the occasion may demand. We suggest, however, that some more recent material involving Italy could be useful publicity to the press in [grps. emtd.] and increase the effectiveness of the publicity.

6. I think that a press campaign on above lines would be valuable in exposing the abuses which have been made of Italian territory and might shame the Italian Government into further efforts without compromising their existing co-operation with the Embassy.

Foreign Office please repeat to Paris as my telegram No. 155.

[Repeated to Paris.]

[Note by Communications Department: Repetition of missing groups has been requested.]

1
2
3
4
5
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FO 371 / 61846

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OUT FILE

19

E 6479/84/31

CONFIDENTIAL

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL No. 2

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO ROME

No. 1621

D. 12.30 a.m. 28th July, 1947

25th July, 1947

u u u u u

CONFIDENTIAL

Your telegram No. 1525 [of 16th July: publicity about the Jewish illegal immigration]. I agree that publicity on Zionist activities in Italy could best be provided by British newspaper correspondents in Italy on the basis of their personal investigations. In addition to newspapers mentioned by you, both the "Daily Mail" and the "Daily Herald" have shown considerable interest in this subject. The "News Chronicle" has so far adopted a somewhat hostile attitude, but personal investigation by their own correspondent might help to rectify this.

2. Provided your experts see no objection you may use material mentioned in your paragraph 5.

1	2	3	4	5	6
		1		2	

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E

CB, 20

INWARD TELEGRAM

Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

TO S. OF S. COLONIES.

INDEXED

D. 23rd July, 1947.

R. 23rd " " 07.00 hrs.

No. 1391 Secret

E6479/84/31 Not green
23 JUL 1947

Rome telegram to Foreign Office No. 1525.

Publicity for Jewish illegal immigration from Italy.

All material of public (as well as intelligence) value, regarding Jewish illegal immigration from Italy which becomes available to this Government, is forwarded to you and repeated to Rome. I therefore doubt whether there is much that I can do locally, especially as release of material on this subject to the press is likely to be more effective in London or Rome than here.

2. Point, however, will be kept in mind and, if there is any material which could suitably be released to the press in Palestine without compromising intelligence sources, appropriate steps will be taken through the Public Information Office.

Copy sent to:-

Foreign Office

- Communications Dept.

1	
2	
3	
4	
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Reference

FO 371 / 61846

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260

1947

E

E 6504

21

PALESTINE

21 JUN 1947

Registry Number } E6504/84/31.

TELEGRAM FROM

Theuff Cooper.
No. Paris.

Dated 168 Saw.
Received in Registry } 17 July.
21

'SS ALBERTINA'

Addressed Marseilles 69.
Reports Italian oil-burner
Albertina, is reported off Cap d'Antibes
is suspected of embarking illegal
immigrants in Italy or France.

Last Paper.

E 6479.

Now see (Minutes) E 6490/48/G

References.

B.U. 23rd July

See note 6490/48/G

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

[Handwritten signature]

(Index)

[Handwritten signature]

Next Paper.

E 6544

32008 F.O.P.

1	2	3	4	5	6

References: FO 371 / 61846

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E 22

Cypher/OTP.

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2.

FROM PARIS TO MARSEILLES.

Mr. Duff Cooper.
No. 69
17th July 1947.

R. 9.55 a.m. 19th July 1947.

Repeated to: Foreign Office, No. 168 Saving.

W:W:W:W:W

IMMEDIATE.

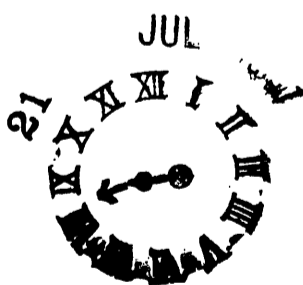
SECRET.

6504
21 JUL 1947

Suspect shipping.

Italian oil-burning Albertina 109 GRT (see Weekly List No. 10) is reported to have entered French territorial waters off Cap d'Antibes and may have put into a South Coast port. Strongly suspected of intention to embark illegal immigrants in Italy if not in France.

2. Please report any information about her and take usual action with local authorities.



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5	
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References: **FO 371 / 61846**

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263

E

23

E 6549

22 JUL 1947

PALESTINE

Registry Number

E 6549/84/31

FROM

Consul General

No.

Marseilles

Dated

FGKG/Jarb.

Received in Registry

16 July

22 July

Jewish Illegal Immigration

Copy of note to Chancery, Paris, giving report on illegal immigration position at Marseilles, & movement of ships.

Last Paper.

E 6545

(Minutes.)

Copy N.I.S
Telegram to Marseilles about KORA.

[Signature]
22/7

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8) N.I.S (Col. Robertson) July 26

Tel) Marseilles 89

Repd) Paris 1432 Sav.
Genoa 51.

22 July

8) G.G.P. on

E 6554/84/31

28 July

(Action completed.)

[Signature]

(Index.)

[Signature]
6/8/48

Next Paper.

E 6554

1	
2	
3	1
4	
5	2
6	

Reference

FO 371 / 61846

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British Consulate-General
Marseilles.

25

16th July, 1947.

FGKG/jarb.

Secret S.1.

Dear Chancery,

Jewish illegal immigration. The following is a report of the position at Marseilles as at 16th July, 1947 :-

"PRESIDENT WARFIELD"
"BRUNA"
"LUCIANO"

} These ships have been
the subject of
separate reports.

- "ARKANGELOS" - No outward change. We understand that she is shortly to be sold by auction.
- "PAN YORK" - There is still no sign of life around this vessel. No departure is listed.
- "PATRIS" - Arrived from the Levant with 99 passengers on 11th July. Left for Alexandria with 15 passengers on 12th July. Next sailing on 26th July.
- "TRANSYLVANIA" - Arrived from the Black Sea with freight and 185 passengers on 13th July. Is due to leave for the same destination on 18th July.
- "ALEXANDRA" - Arrived from the Levant with freight and 58 passengers on 13th July. Is due to leave for the same destination on 16th July. Future sailings on 7th and 28th August.
- "VALENA" - Arrived from Casablanca with 140 passengers on 15th July. Is due to leave for Casablanca on 17th July. Future sailings on 28th July and 8th, 19th & 30th August.

First mention:

"ALBERTINA"
(Ginesta)

- Is listed to leave for Genoa with freight on 17th July. (This vessel is not yet in Port and no indication is given of her arrival).

First mention:

"KORAY"
(Saunier)

- Is listed to leave for Beirut on 1st August.

We are copying this letter to Eastern Department,
Foreign Office.

Yours ever,

Marseilles. 

Chancery,
British Embassy,
PARIS.

1					
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4					
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6					

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FO 371 / 61846

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3149 WT. 26469/137 100m 9/46 (51) F.&S. NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Registry No. E6549/2/31

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open

Draft.

MARSEILLES

Telegram.

No. 89

(Date) July 22

Repeat to:

PARIS NO 1432 SAV. Sav.

GENOA No 51

En. Clair.

Code

Cypher.

Distribution:--

Departmental no. 1

Copies to:--

I. I. P.

94
OUT FILE

26

F. O.,

23/7/94

Despatched 9.29 M.

CONFIDENTIAL

Jewish illegal immigration

JARRB
In your letter no. FGKG/jak of 16th July you report that "KORA" is scheduled to leave Marseilles for Beirut on 1st August.

2. Please ^{report} ~~confirm~~ whether this ship is the "KORA" now at GENOA and shown in Weekly List no. 11

[Signature]
22/7

1
2
3
4
5
6

Reference:

FO 371 / 61846

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27

OUT FILE

E.6549/94/31

Confidential.

Cypher/OTP.

DEPARTMENTAL NO.1.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO MARSEILLES

No.89.

D. 9.20 p.m. 23rd July, 1947.

22nd July, 1947.

Repeated to Paris No.1452 Saving,
Genoa No.51

CONFIDENTIAL.

Jewish illegal immigration.

In your letter No.FGKG/Jarb of 16th July
you report that "Kora" is scheduled to leave Marseilles
for Beirut on 1st August.

2. Please report whether this ship is the
"Kora" now at Genoa and shown in Weekly List No.11.

1	
2	
1	
3	
4	
5	
2	
6	

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FO 371 / 61846

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28

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Class *371*

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E6554/84/31

1	2	3	4	5	6
		1		2	

References

FO 371 / 61846

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265

E

29

6560

PALESTINE

27 JUL 1947

Registry Number E6560/84/31

FROM Mr Ellison.
Panama.

No. Panama.
Dated 10 July.

Received in Registry 23 July.

Illegal Immigrant Ships
Re FO letter (E4821/84/31) of 26/6
Does not think that HM Legation
Panama should apologise to LOMBARDI
& ICAZA!

Last Paper.

E6554

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

As since it was Mr. Ellison who originally suggested the apology (E4821), and Washington who objected to it (E5839), this request seems somewhat exorbitant. Moreover, the original "offence" took place early in March (E2807). If Messrs. Lombardi and Icaza were to receive an apology in any form, it would now be absurdly belated. I suggest, therefore, that we take no action on this letter and allow this already too considerable correspondence to die a natural death.

[Signature]
C. E. GIBBS
26/7

[Signature]
N. A. Dept.

I agree
JB, July 31

(Action completed.)

[Signature]

(Index.)

[Signature]

Next Paper.

E6562

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

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PALESTINE

6611

21 JUL 1947

Registry Number } E6611/84/31.

FROM Mr. Farrell Wilson.

No. Algeira.

Dated 16 July.

Received in Registry } 24 July.

"S.S. Anal"

Re FO letter ESS95/84/31 of 1/7.

Gives details of 'S.S. Anal' & thinks Balearic Islands may be used in future as collecting centre for Jews from Spain.

Last Paper.

E6562

References.

MT

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8) C.O. (Mr. Higham) / H.S. (Col. Robertson)

Col. Off. (Comm. Evershed) / July 30

9) Madrid 255 / July 30

10) Madrid Chancery / from E. J. 5 Aug.

E. J. J. comp's to / Com. Date Algeira / Aug.

11) C.O. (Mr. Higham) / H.S. (Col. Robertson) / Col. Off. (Comm. Evershed) / Aug.

(Action completed.)

Next Paper.

= 6687

(Minutes.)

copy to: C.O. / H.I.S. / Cabinet Office } usual names

Madrid under p/r

and re-submit with full p.p. please.

J 24/7

Letter to Madrid & Bureau / J 21/7

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
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References

FO 371 / 61846

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Registry
No. E6611/84/31
J.E.C.

OUT FILE + 4

33

5th Aug.

Confidential

Draft.

Madrid Bureau
from
Eastern Dept.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Copies to:

H.M. Consulate-General
Algiers

C.O.
M.I.5
Cabinet Office } usual
names

Dear Bureau,

We sent you, under cover of our P/L no 255 of 30th July, a copy of a very interesting letter from H.M. Consulate-General in Algiers about the probable point of embarkation of the illegal Jewish immigrants who reached Palestine on board the S.S. ANAN ("YEHUDA HALEVI") on 31st May.

2. You will have noticed that this letter suggests that ~~all~~ some, at least, of this ship's passengers embarked from the Balearic Islands about the 8th May. We should be grateful for any information you may be able to obtain at this point.

3. If you are able to obtain any confirmatory evidence, you should warn the Spanish authorities of the possibility envisaged in para 3 of the letter from H.M. Consulate-General, that the

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References
FO 371 / 61846

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35

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

OUT FILE

5th August, 1947.

(E 6611/84/31)

Confidential

Dear Chancery,

We sent you under cover of our Printed Letter No. 255 of 30th July, a copy of a very interesting letter from His Majesty's Consulate-General at Algiers about the probable point of embarkation of the Jewish illegal immigrants who reached Palestine on board the s.s. Anai ("Yehuda Halevi") on 31st May.

2. You will have noticed that this letter suggests that some, at least, of this ship's passengers embarked from the Balearic Islands about the 8th May. We should be grateful for any information you may be able to obtain on this point.

3. If you are able to obtain any confirmatory evidence, you should warn the Spanish authorities of the possibility envisaged in paragraph 3 of the letter from His Majesty's Consulate-General, that the Balearic Islands may in future be used as a collecting point for Jews from Spain. In particular, it occurs to us that the "Paducah" and the "Northlands", of whose impending departure from Bayonne we warned you in our telegram No. 527, might call at the Balearic Islands, if and when they succeed in getting away.

4. We are sending a copy of this letter to His Majesty's Consulate-General at Algiers.

Yours ever,
EASTERN DEPARTMENT.

The Chancery,
British Embassy,
Madrid.

1	2	3	4	5	6
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Reference: **FO 371 / 61846**

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268

E

36

E 6687

1947

25 JUL 1947

PALESTINE

Registry Number

E 6687/84/31

TELEGRAM FROM

Sir A. Cadogan.

No. New York.

Dated 1974.

Received in Registry 24 July 25 July

S.S. President Warfield.

Minister of State wishes to know legal basis for decision to return illegal immigrants from President Warfield to France.

Last Paper.

E 6611

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Dft) U.K. Del. New York from E. Dept 30 July

E. Dept's Comps.

Chancery, Washington 30 July

Tel) New York 2367. 29 July

Repl w/ton 7644.

8) 1-1-1 (on E 6793/84/31) 2 Dec

(Action completed.)

J.P.M. 6/8

(Index.)

[Signature]

Next Paper.

E 6715

(Minutes.)

I suggest that we should reply to the Minister of State by telegram in the following sense:-

1. We rely in the first instance on the agreement of the French to the return of the immigrants to France. It is ^{normal} international practice for illegal immigrants to be returned to the country whence they came and for that country to accept them.

2. The position under international law if France had objected to the return of the immigrants to France is not absolutely clear as no precedents ^{or authorities} directly bearing on the point have been found but the legal advisers are of the opinion that we would have good grounds for claiming a right on our part to return the immigrants to France and an obligation on the part of the French to receive them. A copy of a

32008

F.O.P.

French

to

receive

them.

A

copy

of

a

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References FO 371/61846

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NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(13555) Wt. 43698-114 200mm 2/47 G.S.S. Cp. 620

Registry

o. E6687/84/31

Top Secret.
 Secret.
 Confidential.
 Restricted.
 Open.

Draft.

~~the Chancery~~
 U.K. Delgn.
 N. York

from
 Eastern Dept.

Copy Chancery
 Washn.

Fo. letter to Hb.
 of Apr. 21st ✓ + enc.

Paris letter of
 May 21st (E4752) ✓

Ho. letter of May 9
 (E4052) ✓

OUT FILE

+ IC

30 July
A 39

IMMEDIATE

Delegation
 Dear Chancery,

With reference to our
 tel. no. 2367 of 29th July
 about Jewish illegal immigration
 we send you herewith

Copies of a minute by
 Evans on the principle of
 refoulement
 and of correspondence

outlining the normal
 practice in the U.K.
 and France.

2. In Eastern Dept's letter
 to the Chancery at
 Washington of April 21st
 (E3140/48/31) we asked
 for

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Reference

FO 371 / 61846

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40

for information as to
U.S. practice in this matter
but we have not yet
received a ^{reply} ~~report~~ at
this point.

3. We are sending a
copy of this letter to ~~the~~ Washington
Chancery at ~~Washington~~.

Yours ever
E. Dept.

RD
28/7

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

1	2	3	4	5	6
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Reference:

FO 371 / 61846

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Registry
No.

E 6687/84/31

OUT FILE

42

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

Fair draft

F.O.,

29 July 1947.

Despatched

6 20 p M.

Draft. **JEC**
Permanent U.K.
Representative to
U.N., New York.

IMMEDIATE

SECRET

Telegram.

No. 2307

(Date) July 29

Repeat to :—

Washington

7644

*Sec amended
by Mr Fitzmaurice*

JB July 29

~~XXXXXXXX~~
~~XXXXX~~
Cypher.

Distribution :—

Departmental No. 1

Copies to :—

I. I. P.

*RQ
V-28/3*

Your telegram No. 1974 [of July 24th:
Jewish illegal immigration].

Decision to return illegal immigrants
from the "President Warfield" to France
was based primarily on agreement of French
Government, originally expressed orally by
M. Bidault, and later confirmed by Council
of Ministers.

2. There are no precedents or authorities
directly bearing on the position in inter-
national law which would have arisen if
France had refused her agreement to the
return of this ship's passengers. We are
advised, however, that we would have good
legal grounds for claiming a right on our
part to return them to France, and an
obligation on the part of France to receive
them. A copy of a minute on the subject
by one of the Legal Advisers and letters
describing normal practice in the U.K. and
France are being sent by bag.

3. If the Minister of State talks to
journalists on this subject, we should *suggest that he*
should emphasise ~~prefer~~
~~him to stress~~ French agreement, and to avoid
being drawn into any detailed discussion of
the position in international law. *emphasise* ~~the~~
following is however a brief statement of our
case.

4. /

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(13556) Wt. 4.9697-140 100mm 3147 G.S.St. Gp 620

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Reference
FO 371 / 61846

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4. ~~Very briefly, however,~~ Our view is based on an extension of the doctrine of "refoulement", which is accepted under international law. In its narrowest sense this relates to the crossing of a land frontier and means the right to stop an illegal immigrant at the actual frontier and refuse him admission. He is then necessarily returned to the country he departed from, which in a sense he has never left. A similar position is generally accepted in the case of passengers arriving by air who cannot be stopped at the actual frontier. They are stopped at the airport and sent back on the next or an early outgoing plane. It is obviously illogical that this position should be confined to arrivals over land frontiers, and in fact it also operates between countries, e.g. England and France, having direct sea communications. The immigrant is replaced on the ship or aeroplane, or on another ship or aeroplane, and sent back. The shipping and air companies normally comply with these arrangements, which can indeed be made a condition of their right to operate. Most countries also ~~accept~~ ^{agree} to receive persons back in these circumstances provided this is done without delay and it is clear the immigrant has not been admitted into the country he was trying to go to.

5. The difficulties in the present case arise from the facts that:-

(1) the vessels concerned do not belong to an ordinary shipping line but are specially chartered for the express purpose of effecting ~~and~~ illegal immigration and therefore either cannot
or/

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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Reference

FO 371 / 61846

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OUT FILE

~~Green~~

44

E. 6687/84/31

SECRET

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL No.1.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO NEW YORK

(To Permanent United Kingdom Representative to
the United Nations).

No. 2367

D: 6.20 p.m. 29th July, 1947

29th July, 1947

Repeated to Washington No. 7644.

&&&&&&&

IMMEDIATE.

SECRET.

Your telegram No. 1974 [of July 24th:
Jewish illegal immigration.]

Decision to return illegal immigrants from
the "President Warfield" to France was based
primarily on agreement of French Government,
originally expressed orally by M. Bidault, and
later confirmed by Council of Ministers.

2. There are no precedents or authorities
directly bearing on the position in international
law which would have arisen if France had
refused her agreement to the return of this
ship's passengers. We are advised, however, that
we would have good legal grounds for claiming a
right on our part to return them to France,
and an obligation on the part of France to
receive them. A copy of a minute on the subject
by one of the Legal Advisers and letters
describing normal practice in the United Kingdom
and France are being sent by bag.

3. If the Minister of State talks to
journalists on this subject, we should suggest
that he should emphasise French agreement, and

avoid

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61846**

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45

avoid being drawn into any detailed discussion of the position in international law. The following is however a brief statement of our case.

4. Our view is based on an extension of the doctrine of "refoulement", which is accepted under international law. In its narrowest sense this relates to the crossing of a land frontier and means the right to stop an illegal immigrant at the actual frontier and refuse him admission. He is then necessarily returned to the country he departed from, which in a sense he has never left. A similar position is generally accepted in the case of passengers arriving by air who cannot be stopped at the actual frontier. They are stopped at the airport and sent back on the next or an early outgoing aircraft. It is obviously illogical that this position should be confined to arrivals over land frontiers, and in fact it also operates between countries, e.g. England and France, having direct sea communications. The immigrant is replaced on the ship or aircraft, or on another ship or aircraft, and sent back. The shipping and air companies normally comply with these arrangements, which can indeed be made a condition of their right to operate. Most countries also agree to receive persons back in these circumstances provided this is done without delay and it is clear the immigrant has not been admitted into the country he was trying to go to.

5. The difficulties in the present case arise from the facts that:-

(1) the vessels concerned do not belong to an ordinary shipping line but are specially chartered for the express purpose of effecting illegal immigration and therefore either cannot or will not take the immigrants back to their port of departure; and

(2) the port of departure is in a country other than that in which the immigrants' journey originated.

Our view is however that if a country allows

persons

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Reference
FO 371 / 61846

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47

or will not take the immigrants back to their port of departure; and

(2) the port of departure is in a country other than that in which the immigrants' journey originated.

Our view is however that if a country allows persons (even in transit) to embark in its ports when these persons are plainly not provided with the necessary visas or permits of admission to the country they are going to, or without satisfying itself that they are in fact bound for a destination to which they will be admitted on arrival, it must be prepared to receive them back if they are refused admission and returned without delay.

Mills

29.7.

[Com sent to Mr E. Searland]

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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References: **FO 371 / 61846**

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269

E

48

E 6715

1947

PALESTINE

26 JUL 1947

Registry Number } E6715/34/31.

TELEGRAM FROM

Consul General
Marseille

No.

Dated

Received in Registry

102.

23 July
26 July.

S.S. Valena.

Addressed Paris 76.

Ref Paris tel 728 (E6554/34/31).

'S.S. VALENA' is on regular
Marseille - Casablanca service.

Last Paper.

E6687

(Minutes.)

I.I.P. distribution

[Signature] 26/7

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8) G.G.P. on
E6554/34/31

28 July

(Action completed.)

[Signature] 28/7.

(Index.)

[Signature]
6/8/48

Next Paper.

E6734

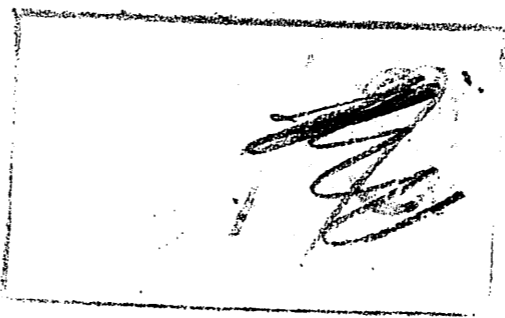
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References
FO 371 / 61846

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49

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E 6715
28 JUL 1947

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2.

FROM MARSEILLES TO PARIS

His Majesty's
Consul General
No. 76
28th July, 1947

D: 3.20 p.m. 28th July, 1947.

R: 10.55 p.m. 28th July, 1947.

Repeated to the Foreign Office No. 102.

G G G G

SECRET

Suspect shipping.

E 6554/84/31

Your telegram No. 728 to Foreign Office.

I confirm that S.S. Valena is still on regular Marseilles Casablanca service.

Foreign Office please repeat to Rome, Jerusalem and Casablanca.

[Repeated to Rome and Casablanca. Copies sent to telegraph section Colonial Office for repetition to Jerusalem]



RECEIVED IN G.B.
25 JUL 1947
CONF TO DEPT.

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61846**

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British Embassy,

52

PARIS.

22nd July, 1947.

I am most disturbed to learn from His Majesty's Consul at Bordeaux that the "Paducah" and the "Northlands" have respectively received 150 tons and 100 tons of bunkers at Bayonne.

Full information concerning these two vessels has already been passed to your department, and in particular we were even able to tell you that the Master of the "Paducah" had notified the Bayonne agents of the vessel that she would require 150 tons of fuel oil. It is surely clear that the action of the French authorities in permitting these vessels to take bunkers in this way, in spite of our continual representations, is simply preparing further trouble, such as we are now having in connection with the "President Warfield".

We understand that these vessels intend to sail from Bayonne on the 23rd or 24th July. May I ask you to do everything that may still be possible to prevent them from participating in the illegal immigration traffic to Palestine. I would point out in particular that the "Northlands", which incidentally is owned by the Weston Trading Company, i.e. the proprietors of the "Trade Winds" and of the "President Warfield" is flying the Panamanian flag, though in fact the Panamanian authorities have informed His Majesty's Government that her registration was withdrawn in 1942. The vessel thus has no port of registry and should not, therefore, be cleared from the port.

H. ASHLEY CLARKE

Monsieur R. Bouquet,
Ministère des Affaires Étrangères.

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References:

FO 371 / 61846

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271

1947

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E 6754

53

PALESTINE

JUL 1947

Registry Number } E6754/84/31.

TELEGRAM FROM

No. G. Helm. Budapest.

Dated 8/3.
Received in Registry } 26 July
28 July.

President Warfield.
Ref F.O let 1634 to Paris (E6448/48/9).
PRESIDENT WARFIELD incident
has been reported in Smallholder
a Communist.

Last Paper.

E6739

References.

(Minutes.)

Information Policy Dept. 20/7

[Signature]
26/7

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

R3/7

(Index.)

[Signature]
6/8/48

Next Paper.

E 6793

32008 F.O.P.

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Reference: FO 371 / 61846

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E. 54

En Clair

DEPARTMENTAL No. 2

FROM BUDAPEST TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Helm
No. 893

D. 11.00 a.m. 26th July 1947.

26th July 1947.

R. 7.10 p.m. 26th July 1947.

IMPORTANT

TTTTTT

Your telegram No. 1634 to Paris. *6448/48/9*

Restricted.

President Warfield incident has been reported briefly and without comment in Smallholder and Communist press. British press has also been quoted.



E 6754
23 JUL 1947

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61846

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27*

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1947

PALESTINE

E 6802

29 JUL 1947

Registry Number E6802/84/31

FROM Consul-General
No. Marseilles.

Dated 24 July

Received in Registry 29 July

Situation at Port of Marseilles.

Reports position at Marseilles as at 23rd. July, 1947.

Also enclosed description of the "KEDMAH" which is only staying at Marseilles for a short time.

Last Paper.

E 6794

References.

2/1/16

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

2) C.O. (Mr. Higham)
M.S. (Col. Robertson)
Cab. Off (Comm. Evoked)
Jubert.
✓ 5 Aug.

(Minutes.)

Copies: C.O. } usual names
M.S. }
Cab. Off }
Office

[Signature]
30/7

(Action completed.)

[Signature]

(Index.)

[Signature]

Next Paper.

E 6817

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61846**

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56

British Consulate-General
Marseilles.

24th July, 1947.

SECRET.
S.I.

FGKE/jarb.

Dear Chancery,

Jewish illegal immigration. The following is a report of the position at Marseilles as at 23rd July, 1947 :-

- "ARKANGELOS" - No change .
- "ALBERTINA" - Arrived from Genoa on 16th July with a cargo of tinned fruit and vegetables. She was due to leave for Genoa on 21st July, but she is still in port, unloaded.
- "ALEXANDRA" - Left for Alexandria on 15th July with 60 tons of freight and 1 passenger.
- "EFTHALIA" - Arrived from Port-Said on 18th July with 10 tons of freight. Left for the Levant with 70 tons of freight on 19th July.
- "CADIO" - Arrived from the Levant on 22nd July with 3 tons of freight and 106 passengers. She is due to leave on 23rd July.
- "KEDMAH" - Arrived from London on 22nd July with 3 passengers. Left for Haifa and Tel-Aviv in the night 22nd/23rd July with some 180 passengers. She is not considered suspect (see press cutting attached).
- "ANDRIA" - Arrived from the Levant on 22nd July with 13 passengers. She is due to leave for the Levant on 23rd July.
- "PHOENIX" - Arrived from Alexandria on 22nd July and did not make any declaration of cargo. This vessel accepts "Dangerous" freight. She is due to leave for the Levant on 25th July.
- "CHIARINA" - Italian sailing vessel said to be engine-powered. She arrived on 16th July in ballast from Genoa. No indication of her date of departure is given and she is considered suspicious on account of her type, her movements and the fact that she is consigned to Ginesta. We should appreciate any information you may have about this vessel.
- "PAN YORK" - Nothing further to report.

During the week the Préfecture and Inscription Maritime have been asked to keep the PAN YORK, ALBERTINA and CHIARINA M under close observation.

Yours ever,

The Chancery,
British Embassy,
PARIS.

Marseilles.

(Copy to Eastern Department, Foreign Office)

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References
FO 371 / 61846

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34

ECHOS

57

Première escale d'un beau paquebot Palestinien

Date mémorable dans les annales maritimes de Marseille, un grand paquebot Palestinien appartenant à un armement authentiquement juif, est entré hier pour la première fois dans nos bassins.

Le KEDMAH, s'il ne peut arborer en poupe l'étendard bleu et blanc frappé du sceau de Salomon - que les nations ne reconnaissent pas - affirme sur sa cheminée et sur sa coque même son origine. Deux bandes blanches barrent en effet son haut tuyau blanc, laissant un champ parsemé de six étoiles d'or cependant que sa carène porte deux listons également bleus.

Le KEDMAH est un navire récent très racé et également reconditionné. Premier d'une série de quatre paquebots modernes il assurera en attendant les trois autres, une rotation express entre Marseille et Haïffa/Tel Aviv.

Appartenant à l'armement KEDEM (Palestine Line) le navire représenté ici par MM Lasry et Fils (chez Michel et Cie).

KEDMAH qui venant de Londres avec 100 émigrants Sionistes "légaux" rescapés des camps d'extermination nazis, n'a fait qu'un bref séjour ici et a appareillé ce matin à destination de son nouveau port d'attache.

35

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61846

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24th July, 1947 58

S-1

E

With the Compliments

of

The Acting Consul-General

Marseilles.

E 6802

29 JUL 1947

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
LONDON, S.W. 1.

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Reference:

FO

371

61846

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Cypher/OTP

E 6817

DEPARTMENTAL No. 1.

29 JUL 1947
FROM WASHINGTON TO JERUSALEM.

Mr. Balfour.

No. 74.

25th July, 1947. R. 4 p.m. 28th July, 1947.

Repeated to FOREIGN OFFICE No. 155 SAVING.

5 5 5

CONFIDENTIAL.

Acting Consul at Cincinnati has asked for guidance on a request by brother of Bernard Marks, Captain of President Warfield, for information as to present situation, whereabouts and probable date of release of his brother. A sister has separately asked whether he would get a fair trial if charges are brought. She has been reassured on this point.

2. I should be glad to know what reply should be returned to this enquiry.

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat].



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Reference:

FO 371 / 61846

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276

E

E 6840

61

PALESTINE

30 JUL 1947

Registry Number } E 6840/84/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No. P. Kay
Marseilles

Dated } 107
Received in Registry } 29 July
30 July

S.S. "President Warfield"

Committee visited "Rivinyrede Park" and Acting Préfet read out revised communiqué. Jews unanimously refused French offer. Fear those on other vessels will do same and will not disembark without use of force which cannot be successful without French co-operation. Requests urgent instructions.

Last Paper.

E 6817

(Minutes.)

5/8

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8) 9.9. P. on
E 6792/84/31
✓ 2 Aug.

(Action completed.)

J.P. 6/8

(Index.)

[Handwritten initials]

Next Paper.

E 6843.

32008 F.O.P.

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References: FO 371 / 61846

E-62

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2

FROM MARSEILLES TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Kay.
No. 107

D. 5.30 p.m. 29th July, 1947

29th July, 1947

R. 7.35 p.m. 29th July, 1947

MOST IMMEDIATE

SECRET

President Warfield.

E 6840

30 JUL 1947

Committee visited Runnymede Park this morning and Acting Préfet read out revised communiqué. Unanimous response of Jews was refusal to accept French offer. We fear passengers on the other vessels will react similarly.

2. We are now in no doubt that the passengers will not disembark without use of force. French authorities have made it plain that they can only accept genuine volunteers.

3. Our dilemma is that the use of force without French co-operation cannot be successful. They will not provide tugs for unwilling passengers. If on the other hand we brought transports alongside the quays the French police could not be expected to co-operate in keeping the port clear.

4. Port de Bouc being a Communist area something like pitched battles might well take place on land not to mention the difficulties with Jewish [gp. undec.] antagonists on shore.

5. If the operation is to continue it is therefore essential to get French agreement to co-operate in the use of force and accept non-volunteers.

6. Please send urgent instructions.

7. Above has been agreed with military commander.

8. Foreign Office repeat Most Immediate to Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean.

[Copies sent to War Registry Admiralty for repetition to Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean].

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Reference
FO 371 / 61846

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277

E

63

E 6843

30 JUL 1947

PALESTINE

Registry Number

E 6843/54/31

FROM

The Fitzgerald C.O.

No.

4077- Cable

Dated

28 July

Received in Registry

30 July

Illegal Immigration Committee

States that Mr Manton is now chairman of the illegal immigration committee.

Last Paper.

E 6840

References.

(Minutes.)

~~Western Division~~
~~Eastern Division~~

please note

[Signature]
30/7

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

[Signature] 1/8

(Index)

[Signature]

Next Paper.

E 6846

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61846**

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Enter 64

E 6843 Colonial Office,
Downing Street,
S.W.1.

Dear Cable, 30 JUL 1947 28th July.

I wonder if you would be good enough to ask your Despatch Section to note again that Mr. J.M. Martin is now chairman of the Illegal Immigration Committee and that the Foreign Office telegrams should now be sent to him and not to Sir Thomas Lloyd.

They are, unfortunately, still being addressed to Sir Thomas Lloyd and thus an extra delay is caused before they reach the right person here.

Yours sincerely
Edward Fitzgerald
(E.N. Fitzgerald)

J.E. CABLE, ESQ.,
FOREIGN OFFICE.

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:

FO 371 / 61846

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278

E

65

1947

E 6846

30 JUL 1947

PALESTINE

Registry Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received in Registry

E 6846 / 84 / 31.

Mr GALLAGHER

Marseilles

24 July

30 July

S.S. PRESIDENT WARFIELD

Gives account of action taken in attempt to prevent departure of President Warfield from Sète.

Last Paper.

E 6843

References.

615

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

5) C.O. (Mr. Higham)
M.I.S. (Col. Robertson)
Cab. Off. (Compt. Evered)
Aug. 9

(Action completed.)

(Index)

Next Paper.

6864
E 6864

(Minutes.)

Copies: C.O. } usual
M.I.S. } names
Cabinet Office }

We have, of course, asked the French to deny bunkers, but they have done nothing. There is no shortage of means to stop these ships, but the will to do so is lacking. Until the French attitude changes, there is little point in pursuing Mr. Gallagher's suggestion.

J. B. Cable
(S.E. Cable)

Serious 31/7

The French have made no attempt to help us. All the M.F.A.'s formulae have been mere attempts to pacify us, which are not always followed up by the depts. responsible i.e. M.F. of the Interior

Western Dept. 1/8

13 July 31

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References
FO 371 / 61846

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24th July, 1947.

66

enter

E 6846

E

30 JUL 1947

With the Compliments

of

The Acting Consul-General

Marseilles.

J.G.S. Beith, Esq.,
Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
LONDON, S.W.1.

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61846**

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Apart from the fact that Jews were allowed to embark at Sète, one interesting point arises from the incidents which took place there: that the French authorities were apparently unable to stop by physical force a ship which ~~was~~^{was} determined to leave port at any cost. In this particular case, we appear to have had the full cooperation of the Inscription Maritime in preventing the departure of the ship but she nevertheless sailed.

It seems to me, therefore, that if further embarkations take place in the South of France we must try to secure the co-operation of the French in establishing a state of affairs where it will be physically impossible for a suspect ship to leave port, however fanatical the crew may be. If the PRESIDENT WARFIELD had been refused bunkering facilities at Caronte she would have been unable to leave Port-de-Bouc, let alone Sète. I would therefore suggest that we might usefully approach the French Government with a request that all authorisations for the issue of fuel oil and other bunkers should be withheld in the case of ships whose names are notified either by you to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or (in case of emergency) by us to the local authorities. I do not know to what extent suspect ships would be able to obtain fuel oil or coal illicitly but I am inclined to think that in the case of ships of the size of the PRESIDENT WARFIELD the refusal of bunkering facilities would effectively immobilise them.

I recently discussed this point with Béguin, Directeur du Cabinet at the Marseilles Préfecture, who has recently been fairly co-operative in the matter of suspect shipping at Marseilles. While he appreciated my point of view, he thought that it would be difficult for the French to refuse bunkers to a suspect ship clearing in ballast. In any case, such a refusal would depend on specific instructions from Paris. It is obviously of the first importance to deny bunkering facilities to suspect ships clearing in ballast as well as to those embarking Jews; otherwise the door is left open for a repetition of the PRESIDENT WARFIELD incident.

I am copying this letter to Beith.

Yours ever,

(F.G.K. GALLAGHER).

G.A. Crossley, Esq.,
British Embassy,
PARIS.

(Copy to:
J.G.S. Beith, Esq.,
Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
LONDON, S.W.1.)

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61846

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278 A

E

E 6864

69

194

PALESTINE

3 JUL 1947

Registry Number } E6864/84/31

TELEGRAM FROM
Consul General
Marseille

No. 108
Dated 29 July
Received in Registry } 30 July

Return of Immigrants from President
Waifield to France

Ref Jerusalem tel 34 to Paris
Addressed Paris unnumbered
Refers arrival of refugees from President
Waifield on OCEAN VIGOR, RUNNYMEDE PARK
EMPIRE RIVAL at PORT DE BOUC. They
would not leave ship.

Last Paper.

E 6846

(Minutes.)

[Handwritten signature]
31/7

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

R 31/7

(Index.)

[Handwritten signature]
6/8/47

Next Paper.

E 6897

32008 F.O.P.

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference
FO 371 / 61846

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279



1947

E

E 6897

71

PALESTINE

JUL 1947

Registry Number

E6897/24/31

FROM

M. Crossley

No.

Pans
407- Cable

Dated

25 July

Received in Registry

31 July

S.S. NORTLANDS and SAN DEMETRIO

M.F.A. have been in touch with Panamanian Legation, about registration of the 'Northlands'. 'San Demetrio' has had Panamanian registration withdrawn.

Last Paper.

E6864

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

e) N.I.S.

Aug. 9

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

Next Paper.

E6899

(Minutes.)

copy N.I.S.

[Signature] 1/8

In P.P. Admiralty tel 091921 B. 9/8

[Signature] 12/8

~~Cancelled~~

Admiralty tel 131210 11/8

B.C.D. Bordeaux 131830 12/8

[Signature] 12/8

In P.P. Admiralty tel 151528A 15/8

- - - 161110 A 16/8

- Bordeaux - 181830 19/8

[Signature] 20/8

In P.P. Admiralty tel 191207 19/8

" " 221800A 22/8

[Signature] 21/8

P.T.O

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References
FO 371 / 61846

G.P.P. C.C. med 261228 26/8

[Signature] 23/8

G.P.P. Admty tel 271600 27/8

- B.P.O. Bordicum 271830 27/8

- " " 261830 27/8

- Admty 280005 28/8

[Signature] 31/8

C.C. med 301229 30/8

- F.V. Gibraltar 311057 31/8

- St Brides Bay 0314415 2/9

- " " 031401 2/9

- " " 030300 2/9

- Gibraltar 031001 2/9

[Signature] 2/9

- St Brides Bay 041425 4/9

- " " 050205 7/9

- C.C. Med 050857 5/9

[Signature] 4/9

G.P.P. St Brides Bay 060215 6/9

[Signature] 10/9

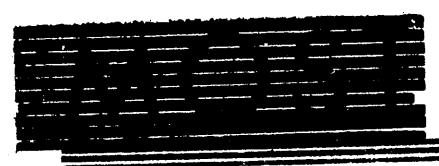
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References

FO 371 / 61846

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74



SECRET INDEXED

OUT

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(*NOTE: Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad: 091921B/August.
Date. 9-8-47.
To. C. in C. Med. (Africa)
Info. C. in C. Med. (Malta)
F.O. Gibraltar.

SECRETEX.

From. Admiralty.

6897 84 71

Following from B.C.O. Bordeaux begins:

NORTHLANDS is still at Bayonne ninth. Ends.

091921B.

Duty Commander.

Advance copy sent D.C. & R.C.

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L. (3)
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.
- Naval Secretary.
- Secretary.
- U.S.S.
- O.D. (8)
- D.C. (2)
- M. (8)
- D.N.I. (5)
- D. of P. (2)
- D. of P. (Q)
- C.N.I. (2)

46.
D.B.

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SECRET

IN 75

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(*Note: Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad: "O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

E I I

131830/Aug.

DATE: 13.8.47.

RECD: 2157.

INDEXED

From: B.C.O. Bordeaux.

NAVAL SHORE O.T.P.

TO. Following for D. N. I.

Northlands is still at Bayone.

131830.

Advance copy sent to D. C. and R. C.

V.C.N.S.
C.D.(8)
L.N.I.(5)
M.(8)
C.N.I.(2)
R.C.

7.
B.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61846

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SECRET

INDEXED 76
OUT E

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(NOTE* : Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad :
"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

131210A/August

To C.in C.Mediterranean (Afloat)
info C.in C.Mediterranean (Malta)
F.O.Gibraltar

DATE 13/8/47

SECRETEX

From Admiralty, D.N.I.

Following from B.C.G.Bordeaux begins:- NORTHLANDS
is still at Bayonne 11th. Ends.

131210A

for Director of Naval Intelligence
(Ext.1248)

1st Lord
1st S.L.(3)
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.
Naval Secretary
Secretary
U.S.S.
O.L.(8)
D.C.(2)
M.(8)

D.N.I.(5)
D.of P.(2)
D.of P.(Q)
C.N.I.(2)

B.A.

Foreign Office (Conf. Cable)

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References
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6897/84/21
~~SECRET~~
SECRET

77
OUT

INDEXED

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(*NOTE: Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad: "O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

To C. in C. Med. (Afloat)
Info. C. in C. Med. (Malta)
F.O. Gibraltar

151528A/August

Date 15.8.47

SECRETEX

From Admiralty

NORTHLANDS was still at Bayonne p.m. 14th. On 8th August she took on provisions of meat, quantity unknown.

151528A

for DIRECTOR OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE
(Ext. 1248)

- 1st Lord
- 1st S.L. (3)
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.
- Naval Secretary
- Secretary
- U.S.S.
- O.D. (8)
- D.C. (2)
- M. (8)
- D.N.I. (5)
- D. of P. (2)
- D. of P. (Q)
- C.N.I. (2)

Foreign Office (M. / E. / C. / C.)

AFB/43

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INDEXED

E 6897 / 94 / 71

78



SECRET

OUT

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(NOTE* : Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad :
"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

161110A/August

To. C. in C. Mediterranean (Afloat) Date. 16. 8. 47.
Info. C. in C. Mediterranean (Malta)
F.O. Gibraltar.

SECRETEX

From. Admiralty.

NORTHLANDS was still at Bayonne p.m. 15th.

161110A

for Director of Naval Intelligence

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L. (3)
- V.C.H.S.
- A C.H.S.
- Naval Secretary
- Secretary
- U.S.S.
- O.D. (8)
- D.C. (2)
- M. (8)
- D.N.I. (5)
- D. of P. (2)
- D. of P. (Q)
- C.N.I. (2)

793MP.

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FO 371 / 61846

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23 AUG 1947

INDEXED

82
OUT

~~SECRET~~
SECRET

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(*NOTE: Messages shown as having been sent in a One Time Pad:
"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

Date. 21. 8. 47.

To. C. in C. Mediterranean (Afloat)
Info. C. in C. Mediterranean (Ashore)
F. O. Gibraltar

~~SECRET~~

From. Admiralty D.N.I.

NORTHLANDS was still at Bayonne p.m. 20th.

211752A

For Director of Naval Intelligence.
(Ext. 1248)

D.N.I. (5)
M. (8)
D.C. (2)

53/MP

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Reference

FO 371 / 61846

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INDEXED

p.w. E
83
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SECRET

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(*NOTE: Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad: "O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

201601A/August.

To: C. in C. Mediterranean.
(Afloat).

Date: 20.8.47.

Info: C. in C. Mediterranean (Ashore).
F.O. Gibraltar.

SECRETEX

From: Admiralty. D.N.I.

NORTHLANDS was still at Bayonne p.m. 19th.

201601A.

for Director of Naval Intelligence.
(Ext. 1248)

D.N.I. (5)
M. (8)
O.D. (8)
D.C. (2)

d.m.
57.

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(*NOTE: Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad: "O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

261228A/August.

To. C. in C. Mediterranean.
Info.F.O. Gibraltar.

Date. 26-8-47.

6897 74 21
28 AUG 1947

INDEXED

SECRETEX.

From Admiralty D.N.I.

NORTHLANDS was still in Bayonne. p.m. 25th.

261228A.

for Director of Naval Intelligence.
(Ext.1248)

D.N.I. (5)
M. (8)
D.C. (2)
O.D. (8)

67.
D.B.

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6897 / 84 / 21
30 AUG 1947 INDEXED

E p.w.
86
OUT

~~SECRET~~
SECRET

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(*NOTE: Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad:
"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)
271600A August

To C. in C. Mediterranean Date. 27.8.47.
Info. F.O. Gibraltar.

SECRET EX

From Admiralty D.N.I.

IMMEDIATE

Consul General Bordeaux states report received that
NORTHLANDS (203) may sail today 27th.

271600A

for D.N.I.
(Ext. 1248)

- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.
- D.G. (2)
- M. (8)
- D.N.I. (5)

Q.S.
86.

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SECRET

IN
87

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(*Note: Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad: "O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

30 AUG 1947

INDEXED

271830/August

From B.C.O. Bordeaux

DATE 27/8/47

RECD 2237

NAVAL SHORE CODE (OTP)

Recirculation

Addressed Proximo London

IMMEDIATE

Following for D.N.I.

I am reliably informed that NORTHLANDS will leave Bayonne to-night bound for Genoa. No repetition no passengers have been embarked.

271830

Advance copy sent D.C.

1st Lord.
1st S.L. (3)
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.
Naval Secretary
Secretary

U.S.S.
O.D. (8)
D.C. (2)
M. (8)
D.N.I. (5)
D. of P. (2)

D. of P. (Q)
C.N.I. (2)

B.A.

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SECRET

P.W. **IN** *88*

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(*Note: Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad: "O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

261830/August.

From Bordeaux.

Date 27.8.47.

Time 0408

NAV. SHORE O.T.P.

Addressed D.N.I.

IMMEDIATE

E / 30 AUG 1947

INDEXED

NORTHLANDS is still at Bayonne. It is thought she will sail tomorrow.

261830.

Advance copies to D.C. D.N.I. sent 1025.

W.C.N.S.
D.C. (2)
O.D. (8)
D.N.I. (5)
M. (2)

MD
27

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FO 371 / 61846

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~~SECRET~~ SECRET

h.w.
89
OUT

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(*NOTE: Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad: "O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

30 AUG 1947

INDEXED

280005A/August

To C. in C. Med.
Info. F.O. Gibraltar

Date 28. 8.47.

SECRET EX

From Admiralty, D.N.I.

IMMEDIATE.

My 271600A. Further report states NORTHLANDS is likely to sail tonight bound for Genoa. No repetition no passengers embarked.

280005A

for D.N.I. (Ext. 1248)

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.
D.C. (2)
M. (8)
D.N.I. (5)

53/EK

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1 SEP 1947

¹⁵¹
SECRET

INDEXED

^{h.w.}
IN

90

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301229A/Aug.

DATE: 30.8.47.

RECD: 1320.

From: C. in C. Mediterranean.

SECRETEX.

TO. Admiralty.
Info. F.O. Gibraltar.

IMPORTANT.

Confirmed ST. BRIDES BAY is at Gibraltar to intercept and shadow NORTHLANDS. A Lancaster of number 38 Squadron is also there. A.M. 291749 refers.

2. Your Para two. Confirmed that all this can be done.

301229A.

Advance copy sent to M. and D.C.

1st Lord.
1st S.L.(3).
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.
Naval Secretary.
Secretary.
U.S.S.
O.D.(8).
D.C.(2).
M.(10).
D.N.I.(5).
D. of P.(2).
D. of P.(Q).(2).
C.N.I.(2).

AB.
54.

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11 Dec 1947

E

INDEXED

p.w. 91



SECRET

IN

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(*NOTE: Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad:
"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

311057A/August.

From F.O. Gibraltar.

Date 31.8.47.

Recd. 1211.

SECRETEX.

Addressed ST. BRIDES BAY.
Info. Admiralty. C. in C. Med. F.O.D. (Med.)
CARDIGAN BAY.

IMPORTANT

Sail at 1830A and establish patrol of Straits to intercept NORTHLANDS.

2. When found shadow and report to C. in C. Med. repeated F.O. Gibraltar and Admiralty every twelve hours and when situation changes.

3. Keep constant watch Gibraltar broadcast.

4. Aircraft is co-operating. Details issued separately.

5. Acknowledge.

311057A

Advance copies sent D.C. - R.C.

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L.(3).
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.
- Naval Secretary.
- Secretary.
- U.S.S.
- O.D.(8).
- D.C.(2).
- M.(8).
- D.N.I.(5).
- D. of P.(2).
- D. of P.(Q).
- C.N.I.(2).

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References

FO 371 / 61846

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MESSAGE.

INDEXED

p.w.
IN
92

UNCLASSIFIED

5 SEP 1947

031445A/September

From ST. BRIDES BAY

DATE 3/9/47

RECD 1533

P/L

Addressed C. in C. Med.
info Admiralty, COMPAL, F.O. Gibraltar

IMPORTANT

My 031401A. Corrected course 090 degs.

031445A

- V.C.N.S.
- D.C. (2)
- O.D. (8)
- M. (10)
- D.N.I. (5)

B.A.

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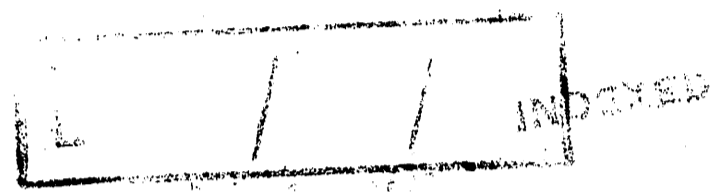
References
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RESTRICTED.

p.s.
E94 IN

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030300A September

Date 3.9.47

Rec'd. 0656

From SAINT BRIDES BAY

GENERALEX BY CABLE

Addressed C in C Med.
info FO Gibraltar Admiralty COMPAL

IMMEDIATE.

"Northlands" sighted in position 35 degs 57
mins north 05 degs 15 mins west. Course 100 speed 8
knots. Am shadowing.

030300A

Advance copies sent D.C.
R.C.

- 1st Lord
- 1st S L (3)
- V C N S
- A C N S
- Naval Secretary
- Secretary
- U S S
- O D (2)
- D C (2)
- JVK 41 M (10)
- D N I (5)
- D of P (2)
- D of P (Q)
- C N I (2)

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61846**

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MESSAGE.

p.w. 96
IN

6897/44 11

UNCLASSIFIED

041425A/September 1947

From ST. BRIDES BAY

DATE 4/9/47

RECD 1804

P/L

Addressed C. in C. Med,
info Admiralty, F.O. Gibraltar, COMPAL

IMPORTANT

Position course and speed at 1400A

36 degs, 38 mins. North 00 degs, 55 mins. East
072 degs, 8.5 knots.

041425A

Advance copy sent R.C., D.C.

V.C.N.S.
O.D. (8)
D.C. (2)
D.N.I. (5)
M. (10)

B.A.

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Reference
FO 371 / 61846

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MESSAGE.

IN ⁹⁷



1-8 SEP 1947

UNCLASSIFIED

050205A/September.

From ST. BRIDES BAY.

Date 5.9.47.

Recd. 0327.

P/L

Addressed C. in C. Med.
Info. Admiralty. COMPAL, F.O. Gibraltar.

IMPORTANT

Position course and speed at 0200A.

37 degs. 03 mins. North
03 degs. 09 mins. East.
085 degs.
9.5 knots.

050205A

Advance copies sent D.C. - R.C.

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.
O.D.(8).
D.C.(2).
D.S.O.
D.N.I.(5).
M.(10).
R.C.

lc5

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Reference

FO 371 / 61846

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MOST SECRET

IN

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(*NOTE: Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad:
"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

050857/September.

From O. in C. Med.

Date: 5.9.47.

Reed: 1030.

INTER-SERVICE (GENERALEX)

To: FOLI
Info: Admiralty for D.N.I., N.O.I.C. Port Said, Greekmil for BOIS,
GOC Malta, Tripdist, BMA Tripolitania, Cyrendist.

IMPORTANT

Suspect ship number 203 NORTHLANDS at 0200 today Friday in position 9 miles North of Algiers steering 085 at 9.5 knots. No repetition no passengers. H.M.S. SAINT BRIDES BAY in company.

050857

Advance copy sent D.C., O.D., M., D.N.I.

1st Lord.
1st S.L.(3)
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.
Naval Secretary
Secretary
U S.S.
O.D.(8)
D.C.(2)
M.(10)
D.N.I.(5)
D. of P.(2)
D. of P.(Q)
C.N.I.(2)

DR.
54

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61846

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250

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100

E 6899

PALESTINE

JUL 1947

Registry Number

FROM BALTIC EXCHANGE

No. CHAMBERS

Dated 28 July

Received in Registry 3 July

E 6899/84/51

S.S. DOLORES

Complains of detention of S.S. Dolores under suspicion of illegal immigrant transporting, without direct reference to agents

Last Paper.

E6897

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Messrs Constant, Constant Aug 4

Mr Higham C.O. from Cable Aug 4

Mr Cable's compo to Cdr Evershed C.O. Mr Schem Dr. 5 Aug. O.J.O.

(Action completed.)

Handwritten initials and date 16/8

(Index.)

Handwritten initials and date

Next Paper.

E6904

(Minutes.)

Mr. Barber of Constant and Constant, has raised the proposal in the penultimate paragraph of this letter on several occasions. I have, in turn, put the suggestion to the Working Party on Illegal Immigration who have approved it in principle, but have not yet taken any action in the matter.

I consider it a very reasonable and useful proposal.

Letters to Mr. Higham (C.O.) and Messrs. Constant and Constant.

G.P.P. Constant and Constant 10/8 1/8

Meeting arranged for the morning of 15th August. Letters to Constant & Constant and to Min. of Tr. C.O. and H.I.O accordingly.

B.O. 14/8

At the meeting of the Shipping Panel, it was decided that a C.O. should send a letter of appreciation to Wigham-Richards and

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References
FO 371 / 61846

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RECEIVED
30 JUL 1947
317

103

28th July, 1947.

However, that may be, a great deal of harm has been done to our Clients over this matter and unfortunately, the case of the "DOLORES" is not an isolated case. Recently, two other vessels consigned to our Clients' agency, the "KYLEMOUNT" and the "COCKEREL" were apparently subject to similar suspicion. These vessels were delayed on this account causing considerable loss and inconvenience to all concerned. In fact both vessels narrowly missed the cancelling dates under their Charter Parties, and the only explanation which was vouchsafed to our Clients came in the form of a message over the telephone, to the effect that some mistake had occurred for which regrets were expressed.

Our Clients have always deemed it their duty to assist any Government authority and throughout the whole of the War they whole-heartedly supported and co-operated with the Ministry of War Transport, and are still continuing to do so.

It is therefore greatly resented by our Clients that some action should be taken against vessels with which they have some connection, on the basis of "information received", which, in at least three cases, has been proved incorrect, when direct enquiry to our Clients would have resulted in the fullest disclosure of all their available information followed by such action as might be deemed appropriate in the light of the facts.

As instances of our Clients policy of not knowingly having anything to do with vessels engaged or likely to be engaged in the immigration traffic we refer to the case of a vessel called the "BEATRIZ" ex "MIN YUNG". Our Clients were employed in the usual way, to take delivery of and to pay over the purchase price of this vessel as agents. They were also requested to make a Time Charter for her for the account of Compagnia Maritima Sphika S.A.

Immediately they heard that the British Authorities had this vessel under suspicion they withdrew entirely from the transaction and left the Owners to make other arrangements concerning agency and Chartering.

We refer also to the case of the Panamanian Steamship "KORA" which is now under arrest at Genoa. It is unnecessary for us, in the course of this letter, to elaborate the steps which our Clients took to facilitate the detention of the "KORA" at Genoa, at the instance of Norton Co., Limited, of Lisbon, and other Claimants, of which you have already been advised in the course of our separate correspondence on that case. Our Clients acted as Agents for this vessel and had no grounds for suspecting that the "KORA" was to be engaged otherwise than in the legitimate passenger

The Under Secretary of State,
Foreign Office, Eastern Department.

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Reference: FO 371 / 61846

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104

28th July, 1947.

trade, but they acted with promptitude when the contrary was suggested, and it is manifest that had Norton Co's account been paid on presentation to our Clients here, that vessel would not now be subject to the arrestment proceedings in Italy, which we have in hand for Norton & Co., Limited and other Claimants. Our Clients in fact readily fell in with the suggestion that they should decline payment, and thus provided grounds for arresting the "KORA". Since then they have done their best to help in every possible way with regard to this Ship of which you already have first-hand evidence.

Our Clients hoped and expected that the suggestion we made in the course of dealing with the "DOLORES", viz., that the interested Departments of His Majesty's Government would have been ready and anxious for our Clients to meet them in order that these matters, of which they complain, could have been thoroughly discussed and some programme made for dealing with any future vessels with which our Clients might have some connection.

Whilst they were, of course, pleased to be vindicated with regard to the "DOLORES", they appear to be in exactly the same position as they were before the detention of that vessel. That is to say, they have no means of knowing when some other vessel in which they may have some business interest might be delayed and the cause of delay laid at their door.

Owing to the wide publicity that these incidents have obtained, our Clients can now do nothing without some official action being taken which will remove the clear impression which now exists in shipping circles in the City, that they have, in fact, taken some part in assisting in the illegal immigration business. They can only take appropriate action in Court if and when they have direct evidence against some person or persons.

It is accordingly desired that we should endeavour to make plain to you our Clients' present unhappy position over this matter, as above set out, and to suggest that an opportunity be given them of attending a meeting on the lines of that which was proposed in connection with the "DOLORES". At the same time our Clients would like to be assured that in the event of another vessel, with which they may be connected, in the future, coming under suspicion, that they will receive a direct approach in the matter by the Department concerned.

We shall be glad if you will consider what we have written and to hear from you at an early date.

The Under Secretary of State,
Foreign Office, Eastern Department.

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Reference
FO 371 / 61846

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Registry
No. E 6899/34/31

J.E.C.

OUT FILE +OC

2
106

Draft.

~~Top Secret~~
Secret.
Confidential.
~~Restricted~~
Open.

Confidential

4th Aug

Gentlemen,

Messrs. Constant
and Constant
Baltic Exchange
Chambers,
24, St. Mary Axe,
London, E.C.3

I am directed by
Mr. Secretary Bevin to
refer to your letter no. AB/110
of the 28th July, in which
you suggested that a meeting
might be arranged between
yourselves, your clients Messrs.
P. WIGHAM-RICHARDSON & Co. and
representatives of the Departments
of H.M.G. concerned in the
prevention of Jewish illegal
immigration to Palestine.

I am to state that
this proposal is being discussed /with

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61846

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3. This suggestion has been made to me on several occasions by Mr. Barker, of Constant and Constant, and you may remember that I have raised it at meetings of the Working Party. I understood that it had been agreed in principle and that this meeting was to be combined with Mr. Suercraft's interview by the Shipping Panel.

4. I am very much in favour of such a meeting for several reasons:

(a) Both Constant & Constant and Wigham Richardson have given us valuable assistance in detaining the "KORA" and deserve some courtesy in return.

(b) Both firms could be of assistance to us in the future.

(c) We might be able to ~~save ourselves~~ ^{considerable} unnecessary effort, if ^{we} establish a regular liaison system with Wigham Richardson.

5. I have sent Messrs. Constant and Constant an acknowledgment promising them /an

110

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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Reference

FO 371 / 61846

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NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

an early reply. Perhaps
~~you would let me have~~
~~your comments~~ as so I should
be grateful for your guidance
on the nature of this reply.


1/8

Yours sincerely

(Sgd.) J. E. Cable.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61846

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4. I am very much in favour of such a meeting for several reasons:-

(a) Both Constant and Constant and Wigham-Richardson have given us valuable assistance in detaining the "Kora" and deserve some courtesy in return.

(b) Both firms could be of assistance to us in the future.

(c) We might be able to save ourselves unnecessary effort, if we could establish a regular liaison system with Wigham-Richardson.

5. I have sent Messrs. Constant and Constant an acknowledgment promising them an early reply. I should be grateful for your guidance on the nature of this reply.

Yours faithfully

(Sgd.) (J.E. Cable)

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61846

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ONSTANT & CONSTANT.
SOLICITORS.

HARVEY L. CONSTANT. R. A. PARKIN.

TELEGRAMS: TWOCONSTS, STOCK, LONDON.
TELEPHONES: AVENUE 1191.
(PRIVATE BRANCH EXCHANGE)

6899 84 31.

E 114

BALTIC EXCHANGE CHAMBERS.

Confidential.

24, ST. MARY AXE.

LONDON, E.C.3.

Your Ref: E 6899/84/31.

Our ref: AB/KB.

7th August, 1947.

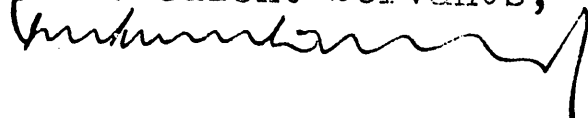
Sir,

We are much obliged for your letter of the 4th instant and note the position, on which our Clients have been duly advised.

We await your further communication in due course.

We have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servants,



The Under Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
Whitehall,
London, S.W.1.

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Reference:

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Registry
No. E6899/84/31
J.E.C.

OUT FILE

135

115

13 Aug.

Draft.

Top-Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

Messrs. Lomant
& Lomant

[C.O. concur]

Gentlemen,
I am directed by
Mr. Secretary Bevin to refer
to your letters nos. AB/MB
and AB/KB of 28th July
and 7th August respectively.
As indicated in this Dept's
letter no. E6899/84/31 of 4th
August, your proposal has
now been discussed with
the competent Depts. and
I am ~~to state directed~~
~~to state directed~~ to
suggest that representatives of
your firm and of Messrs.
Wigham - Richardson should
attend

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Reference

FO 371 / 61846

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+ 2C

13 Aug

Draft.

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

Confidential
Immediate

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Mr. KING
(Ministry of Tr.)
F.C.

Mr. RENNIE
(Ministry of Tr.)

from
Mr. J.E. CABLE
[C.O. concern]

Copies to:
{ Mr. Schera (H.I.S.)
{ Mr. Higham (C.O.)
→ without enclosures

~~Basant & Basant
letter of 28/7;
my letter to Mr. Higham
of 4th August -
Holds in E6899~~

I am writing to confirm our telephone conversation of 12th August about the meeting with representatives of Messrs. Basant & Basant and Messrs. Wigham-Richardson, which is to be held at the Colonial Office at 11 a.m. on Friday 15th August.

2. I now enclose copies of the previous correspondence, giving details of Messrs. Basant and Basant's proposals and of our reactions. This question will be further discussed at the meeting of the Working Party

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References:

FO 371 / 61846

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Party on Jewish illegal
immigration, which will take
place at 3 p.m. on Thursday
14th August at 58, St.
James' Street.

3. I am also addressing

[Signature]
12/8

119

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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Reference

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OUT FILE

120

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

13th August, 1947.

(E 6899/84/31)

CONFIDENTIAL.
IMMEDIATE.

Dear King,

I am writing to confirm our telephone conversation of the 12th August about the meeting with representatives of Messrs. Constant and Constant and Messrs Wigham-Richardson, which is to be held at the Colonial Office at 11 a.m. on Friday the 15th August.

2. I now enclose copies of the previous correspondence giving details of Messrs. Constant and Constant's proposals and of our reactions. This question will be further discussed at the meeting of the Working Party on Jewish illegal immigration, which will take place at 3 p.m. on Thursday the 14th August at 58, St. James' Street.

Yours sincerely

(Sgd.) (J. E. Cable)

A.W.G.King, Esq.,
Ministry of Transport.
(Treasury Solicitors Department)
Berkeley Square House.

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References

FO 371 / 61846

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FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

13th August, 1947.

(E 6899/84/34)

CONFIDENTIAL.
IMMEDIATE.

Dear Rennie,

I am writing to confirm our telephone conversation of the 12th August about the meeting with representatives of Messrs. Constant and Constant and Messrs Wigham-Richardson, which is to be held at the Colonial Office at 11 a.m. on Friday the 15th August.

2. I now enclose copies of the previous correspondence giving details of Messrs. Constant and Constant's proposals and of our reactions. This question will be further discussed at the meeting of the Working Party on Jewish illegal immigration, which will take place at 3 p.m. on Thursday the 14th August at 58, St. James' Street,

Yours sincerely

(Sed.) (J.E. Cable)

F.G. Rennie, Esq.,
Ministry of Transport.

121

1	2	3	4	5	6
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Reference:

FO 371 / 61846

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By Victor H. Bernstein

UNSCOP Told How U. S. Mate of Exodus Was Killed

(Copyright, 1947, by The Newspaper PM, Inc.)

JERUSALEM

John Stanley Grauel, U. S. citizen and former minister who arrived in Haifa on Friday aboard the refugee ship, Exodus 1947, as a crew member yesterday related to a group of delegates of the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP) what he knows of the death of his fellow American, William Bernstein, 24, of Los Angeles, the chief mate of the Exodus 1947.

Emphasizing that he wasn't an eye witness to the tragedy, Grauel told the delegates, however, that the incident was described to him "over and over again" by several

Advertisement

crewmen who were actual eyewitnesses as the ship limped into Haifa harbor.

Grauel said there were at least four members of the crew in the wheelhouse when the British boarding party entered it. The men were Bernstein, Stanley Ritzer of Brooklyn, the ship's cook; William Millman of Chelsea, Mass., the helmsman, and at least one other unidentified American.

'A Club Followed Him'

"The story as told me," Grauel said, "was that the British heaved tear gas into the wheelhouse then leaped in and shot twice at Millman who was standing at the wheel. The evidence as I got it, was that Millman offered no resistance at any time nor had anything with which he could have offered resistance.

"Ritzer, Bernstein, and the third man ran for the doors when the British sailors entered. Ritzer was struck a glancing blow with a club. Bernstein came tumbling through the door after him and, as the incident was graphically described to me afterward, a club followed him."

Guard Refuses To Let Him In

"Ritzer and the other man rushed Bernstein, who was injured badly, to the captain's cabin aft of the wheelhouse. They laid him on the bed and escaped through the window.

"Later, when I was told of Bernstein's plight, I sought to gain entry to give him first aid if I could. But the British sailor standing guard refused me a permit to enter, believ-

Advertisement

ing I was up to some trick. The result was that no one came near Bernstein until negotiations led to the surrender of the ship to the British about two hours later, and a doctor and nurse went to his help."

Bernstein died that night in a Haifa hospital.

Grauel told of the Bernstein tragedy along with the entire story of the odyssey of the Exodus 1947 to Chairman Sandstroem and a half-dozen committee members at UNSCOP's invitation. The blond, 29-year-old American who was accredited as a correspondent to the *Churchman* reported later he had had a fair and sympathetic audience which listened carefully to what I had to say and had many questions to ask.

Grauel said the delegates were particularly interested, aside from the death of Bernstein, in the following:

Outside Three Mile Limit

¶ How the British boarded the ship and whether violence had been necessary, in the judgment of the witness, to seize control.

¶ Whether the witness had seen any arms in the possession of the passengers.

¶ Whether the ship was actually outside the three-mile limit at the time of the boarding.

¶ Whether the witness had seen the Jews in DP camps and whether they really wanted to come to Palestine.

Grauel told delegates what he'd

previously told newsmen:

That the ship was definitely outside territorial limits when captured; that three pistols aboard the ship had been disposed of at the order of the ship's authorities before the British boarded; that in his judgment the violence used by the British was far in excess of that necessary to capture the ship.

'Great Majority Want To Go to Palestine'

Grauel told the committee that he'd seen many DP's in Europe and that "80 per cent want to leave the continent." He told delegates that "a great majority want to go to Palestine as the first choice, although many added they'd like to go to America if they were permitted."

Grauel's status here is still uncertain, with the U. S. Consul in communication with British authorities. His papers and passport are still in the hands of the British who are believed attempting to force him to leave on the next boat although he has a legal Palestine visa on his passport.

The feeling among the Jews here is running high with a two hour Palestine-wide strike held yesterday. Burials were held for Bernstein and two youthful victims of the British boarding operations—Hirsch Yacobovich, 15, of Poland and Mordecai Bunstain, 23, who boarded the ship from a DP camp in Germany.

The feeling here is that if the

two young European Jews are stateless with no country to go to their defense, at least the U. S. A. ought to move in protest against the death of its own citizen.

During Grauel's testimony before UNSCOP the American told Chairman Sandstroem who boarded the ship for a short time Friday afternoon while the debarking was taking place: "Mr. Sandstroem, I saw you come aboard and I want you to know that stretcher cases were being carried ashore while you were looking elsewhere. And I personally saw how the bearers removed the body of at least one of the victims with his face uncovered as if he were still alive."

AN EDITORIAL **The Word Is Murder**

There was triumph as well as tragedy in the arrival of the Jewish immigrant ship, Exodus 1947, off Palestine last week. I know from friends abroad and diplomatic contacts in Washington, the persistent and passionate fury with which the British have been working to stop up every border road, every mountain pass, every port from which Jews might escape to Palestine.

The war against the so-called illegal immigration has become a kind of personal feud with Bevin, a merciless and petty war to be pursued with vindictive vigor at considerable and growing expense. At the highest levels and in the lowest reaches of the British diplomatic and intelligence services, the task of preventing the miserable remains of European Jewry from making their way back to their ancient homeland has No. 1 priority.

There is hardly a British negotiation in Europe or Latin America in which the English government has not surprised the conferees by bringing up at the very start demands for the stoppage of clandestine help to the Jewish "underground railway." Despite financial stringency in Britain of the most severe sort, there has been increasing expenditure on this task of crushing Jewish hopes. And these expenditures range from the cost of constant air and naval patrol in the Mediterranean to the bribery of minor officials in obscure European fishing ports.

The British were especially anxious to prevent any immigrant ship from reaching Palestine while the United Nations Special Committee was there. The terror can be utilized to excuse British occupation and oppression, to confuse the issue of a people's fight for life with the issue of "law and order," but an immigrant ship is too vivid a sight for the cleverest obfuscation, a mute appeal to whatever conscience is left in the world, the affirmation—under the very guns of the British Navy—of Jewish determination to live.

With the Exodus 1947, the Haganah beat the British deadline. It is fortunate that on the ship was

a young former clergyman, John Stanley Grauel of Worcester, Mass., to provide the UN Commission with an eyewitness account of what occurred. I know Grauel. He went on that ship because he is the kind of man to whom Christianity is a living faith to be demonstrated in action.

For me the terrible story of the ship's running fight with the British, in which three were killed and five very seriously injured, had painful immediacy. Some of those in the crew were boys with whom I sailed to Palestine last year on the illegal immigrant ship *Beria*. Most of the boys on the *Exodus 1947* were in the Army and Navy during the war. There could be no finer, no more devoted, group of American boys than the Jewish youngsters who went off or that hazardous trip.

There was a sense of personal grief for me in the news that one of these boys, William Bernstein of Los Angeles, had been killed in the battle with the British boarding party. Bernstein, if I recollect rightly, was in the crew of the *Sir Josiah Wedgwood*. I saw its escape from the carabinieri on a lonely starlit Italian coast last year with some 1500 young *chalutzim* it took to Palestine. This was Bernstein's second voyage. He leaves a young wife and baby. He gave his life for his people.

I hope there will be pressure on the State Dept. to do more than issue its usual anemic and ambiguous statements in the British arrest of Capt. Bernard Marks and two Brooklyn boys in his crew. This ship was seized outside territorial waters. The attack on the *Exodus 1947* in those waters was piracy. The killing of Bernstein under those circumstances was murder.

The policy Bernstein gave his life to fight is itself murder, though of a subtler and slower variety. The restrictions being enforced by the British against the Jews are illegal under the mandate. They are part of a cold war designed to kill the hopes and the morale of the Jewish DPs, to choke off the growth of the Jewish nation in Palestine, to reduce it to another helpless ghetto in the Arab world. They give the Jews the choice of resistance or death.

-I. F. STONE

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Reference

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CONSTANT & CONSTANT.
SOLICITORS.

HARVEY L. CONSTANT. R. A. PARKIN.

TELEGRAMS: TWOCONSTS, STOCK, LONDON.
TELEPHONES: AVENUE 119
(PRIVATE BRANCH EXCHANGE)

AB/KB.

BALTIC EXCHANGE CHAMBERS.

24, ST. MARY AXE,

LONDON, E.C.3.

8th August, 1947.
(Dictated 7th).

For the attention of
Mr. Cable.

Sir,

Re:- "K O R A"

Referring to our telephone conversations of today, Messrs. Wigham-Richardson & Co. Ltd. have sent a cable to Gasparinatos, the owner of this vessel, which reads :-

"Consider your presence here would materially assist our endeavours clarify general position your vessels further trading Stop Please arrange advising us".

We have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servants,

The Under Secretary of State,
FOREIGN OFFICE,
Eastern Section,
Whitehall,
London, S.W.1.

133

INDEXED

6969/84/21

12 AUG 1947

1	2	3	4	5	6
		1			
				2	

References

FO 371 / 61846

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289

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134

E 7020

1947

PALESTINE

4 AUG 1947

Registry Number

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

Dated

Received in Registry

E 7020/84/31

St. Nain

Bordeaux.

48.

4 Aug.

Illegal Immigrant Ships

Neither suspected ship at Bayonne have received sailing orders

Last Paper.

E 69 2368

References.

(Minutes.)

This from ... THANDS

5/8

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

98/106/8

(Index.)

6/10/47

Next Paper.

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32008 F.O.P.

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References

FO 371 / 61846

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135'

E 7020
4 AUG 1947

Cypher/OTP

ADMIRALTY

FROM BORDEAUX TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Nairn

No. 48

1st August, 1947.

D. 1.40 p.m. 1st August, 1947.

R. 6.50 p.m. 1st August, 1947.

F F F F

IMMEDIATE

Your telegram No. 15.

Admiralty tel

My telegrams to Proximo are not being delivered.

London Post Office states that address is incomplete.

Please inform director of Naval Intelligence that neither suspected ship at Bayonne has yet received sailing orders.

AUG 1947
Circular clock stamp with numbers 1-12 and a central dot.

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61846**

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278

E

136

E 7030

5 AUG 1947

1947

PALESTINE

Registry
Number

E7030/84/31

FROM

70. Minute

No.

Peter Abachan

Dated

31 July 1947

Received
in Registry

5. Aug 1947

Refugee ship "St Louis"
 Has succeeded in identifying the refugee ship
 which appeared off the U.S. coast in summer
 of 1939. She was the Mopag Leri "St Louis"
 which sailed from Hamburg for Cuba with
 900 refugees on board.

Last Paper.

7020

(Minutes.)

J/48

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action
completed.)

J/48/8

(Index.)

J/48

Next Paper.

715-0

Wt. 24772/717 17895 10/38 F.O.I.

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References

FO 371 / 61846

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Minutes.

*Enter E
137
END.*

Mr. Cable

E 7030

Eastern Department

5 AUG 1947

I have now succeeded in identifying the refugee ship which appeared off the coast of the United States in the summer of 1939.

She was the Hapag liner "St. Louis" which sailed from Hamburg for Cuba with 900 refugees on board. Having been refused admission to Cuba, the ship cruised off the coast of Florida with a coastguard ship accompanying her for the purpose of restoring to the ship any refugees who might jump overboard and seek to swim ashore. Reports of the incident are to be found in the "New York Times" of June 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th, 1939, including a leader rebuking the Cubans for their failure to accept the refugees.

Peter Matthews

Peter Matthews
31st July, 1947

We can not do very much with this story officially, since the parallel is rather remote. News Dept. propose, however, to bring it to the notice of a friendly journalist.

*Mr. Beatty 11/3. 31/7
N.A. Dept. 24/7*

*Julius
(CABLE)
31/7
B July 31*

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61846

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